

TRACY L. STEFFES

164 Angell St, Box 1938
Providence, Rhode Island 02912
(401) 863-2894
Tracy_Steffes@Brown.edu

Academic Appointments

- 2024- present Professor of Education and Professor of History, Brown University.
Brown Affiliations: A. Alfred Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy;
Annenberg Institute; Department of American Studies and Ethnic Studies; Urban
Studies Program.
- 2022-present; Chair, Department of Education, Brown University
2018-2021
- 2014-2024 Associate Professor of Education and Associate Professor of History, Brown
University
- 2007-2014 Assistant Professor of Education and Assistant Professor of History, Brown
University
- 2005-2006 Visiting Instructor in History, Denison University

Education

- Ph.D. University of Chicago, History, 2007.
- M.A. University of Chicago, History, 1999.
- B.A. Western Michigan University, Honors in History and Political Science, *summa cum laude*,
1998.

Books

- Structuring Inequality: How Schooling, Housing, and Tax Policies Shaped Metropolitan Development and
Education*, University of Chicago Press, 2024.
- School, Society, & State: A New Education to Govern Modern America, 1890-1940*. University of Chicago
Press, 2012.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Assessment Matters: The Rise and Fall of the Illinois Resource Equalizer Formula,” *History of Education Quarterly*, 60 (Feb. 2020): 24-57.

“Managing School Integration and White Flight: The Debate over Chicago’s Future in the 1960s,” *Journal of Urban History*, 42 (July 2016): 709-32.

Caldor, Lendol and Tracy Steffes, “Measuring College Learning in History,” in *Improving Quality in American Higher Education: Learning Outcomes and Assessments for the 21st Century*. Edited by Richard Arum, Josipa Roksa, and Amanda Cook. Jossey-Bass, 2016: 37-86.

“Governing the Child: The State, the Family, and the Compulsory School in the Early Twentieth Century,” in *Boundaries of the State in U.S. History*. Edited by William J. Novak, James Sparrow, and Stephen Sawyer. University of Chicago Press, 2015.

“The ‘Race Problem’ and American Education in the Early Twentieth Century.” In *Inequity in Education: A Historical Perspective*. Edited by Debra Meyers and Burke Miller. Lexington Books, 2009: 123-46.

“Solving the “Rural School Problem”: New State Aid, Standards, and Supervision of Local Schools, 1900-1933.” *History of Education Quarterly* 48 (Spring 2008): 181–220.

“Lessons from the Past: A Challenge and a Caution for Policy-Relevant History.” In *Clio at the Table: Using History to Inform and Improve Education Policy*. Edited by Kenneth K. Wong and Robert Rothman. Peter Lang Publishing, 2008: 263-82.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Articles

Review of *The Multiracial Promise: Harold Washington’s Chicago and the Democratic Struggle in Reagan’s America* by Gordon K. Mantler, *Journal of American History*, submitted.

Review of *You Will Never be One of Us: A Teacher, a Texas Town, and the Rural Roots of Radical Conservatism* by Timothy Paul Bowman, *New Mexico Historical Review*, in press.

Review of *The Education Trap: Schools and the Remaking of Inequality in Boston* by Christina Viviana Groeger, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 52 (Spring 2022): 626-7.

Review of *Shaped by the State: Toward a New Political History of the Twentieth Century*, edited by Brent Cebul, Lily Geismer, and Mason B. Williams, eds., *Journal of American History*, 107 (June 2020): 225-6.

Review of *The Shifting Landscape of the American School District: Race, Class, Geography, and the Perpetual Reform of Local Control, 1935-2015* edited by David Gamson and Emily Hodges, *History of Education Quarterly*, 59 (Feb. 2019): 131-34.

Review of *Roaring Metropolis: Businessmen’s Campaign for a Civic Welfare State* by Daniel Amsterdam,

Planning Perspectives, 33 (1) (2017): 145-46.

Review of *Courts and Classrooms: A Legal History of College Access, 1860-1960* by Scott Gelber, *Journal of American History*, 103 (Mar. 2017): 1104-05.

“Cubberley, Elwood P.” and “Smith-Hughes Act” in *Encyclopedia of Educational Reform and Dissent*. Edited by Thomas C. Hunt, et. al. Sage Publishing, 2010.

“Ingraham v. Wright,” *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*. Edited by David S. Tanenhaus. New York: Macmillan Reference, 2008.

“Eliot, Charles W.,” “Harris, William Torrey,” and “Gary Plan” in *Encyclopedia of Gilded Age and Progressive Era History*. Edited by Joseph D. Bunker and John D. Bunker. Sharpe Publishers, 2005.

“Chinese,” “Refugees,” “Malaysians,” “Hmong,” “Congolese,” “Gas Stations,” “Condominiums and Cooperatives,” and 16 other entries in *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Edited by James Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff. University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Book Projects in Progress

Education Inc.: For-Profit Business and the Development of American Public Education.

Research Grants and Honors

Howard Foundation Fellowship, awarded 2014-2015, utilized 2016-2017

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 2013-2014

Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University, 2013-2014

Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, University of Chicago Regenstein Library, 2012-2013

Albert Shanker Educational Research Fellowship, American Federation of Teachers, 2011-2012

National Academy of Education/ Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2010-2011

American Academy of Arts and Sciences Visiting Scholar Fellowship, 2010-2011

Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, 2010-2012

Finalist, Spencer Foundation Exemplary Dissertation Award, 2009

Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, Brown University, 2008-2009

National Parent-Teacher Association National Research Fellowship, 2008

Harry Barnard Dissertation Year History Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2005-2006 (declined)

Social Science Research Council Program on Philanthropy and Non-Profit Sector Fellowship,
2004-2005

Rockefeller Archive Center Grant, 2004

Miller Center for Public Affairs Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2003-2004

Doolittle-Harrison Research Grant, University of Chicago, 2003

Freehling Research Grant, University of Chicago, 2003

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1998-2002

Select Presentations and Invited Talks

- Invited plenary panelist, “Confronting Chicago’s Educational Policy Environment,” History of Education Society meeting, Chicago, November 2024.
- “Structuring Inequality” Book talk, Brown University Department of Education, April 2024.
- “The Manufactured Crisis and Neoliberal Solutions in Chicago Public Schools,” History of Education Society Conference, Atlanta, Nov. 2023.
- Invited panelist, “Book Panel: *Dividing the Public*,” History of Education Society Conference, Atlanta 2023.
- Invited panelist, “Race Conscious Admissions Policies in Higher Education,” Education Department, Brown University, Feb. 2023.
- Chair, “John Zimmerman’s *Whose America?: Culture Wars in American Schools* 20 Years On,” History of Education Society Conference, Baltimore, November 2022.
- Panelist, “Schools Can’t Save Us: Groeger’s *The Education Trap*,” History of Education Society Conference, virtual, November 2021.
- Invited comments on “Taxing Limits,” Jefferson Center Scholars Conference, Charlottesville, Virginia, May 2021.
- “Shifting Fortunes: Schools, Metropolitan Development, and Inequality in Chicagoland,” Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy, November 2020.
- “The Rise and Fall of the Illinois Resource Equalizer Formula,” History of Education Society Conference, Columbus, November 2019.
- Discussant, “Racial Discrimination and School Finance” History of Education Society Conference, Columbus, November 2019.
- Discussant, “Vocation or Volition?: Histories of Tracking and Choosing in Twentieth-Century Urban School Systems,” History of Education Society Conference, Albuquerque, November 2018.
- Invited workshop, “School Finance and Property Tax Reform,” American Bar Foundation Legal History Roundtable, Chicago, May 2018.
- Invited talk, “The Promise and Limits of School Finance Reform in 1970s Illinois,” Northwestern University Center for Legal Studies, Evanston, May 2018.
- “The Struggle for Affordable Housing in Metropolitan Chicago in the 1970s,” Brown Legal History Workshop, Providence, November 2017.
- “Property Assessment: Hidden Inequities in School Finance,” History of Education Society Meeting, Little Rock, November 2017.
- “Localism and Educational Inequality in Postwar Chicagoland,” American Bar Foundation Legal History Workshop, Chicago, February 2017.
- Discussant, “Evaluation and Assessment Practices in the Twentieth Century: From K-12 to Higher Education,” History of Education Society Meeting, Providence, RI, November 2016.
- Discussant, “Reconsidering the History of Schools, Opportunity, and Metropolitan Change,” History of Education Society Meeting, Providence, RI, November 2016.
- Discussant, “Education and State-building in the 19th Century: How Americans Built and Staffed the Schools,” Policy History Conference, Nashville, June 2016.
- Invited talk, “Race and Property in the 20th and 21st Centuries: The Role of Public Schooling in Metropolitan Development and Inequality after WWII,” Northwestern University, Chicago, May 2015.
- “SSRC Measuring College Learning Outcomes from a Historian’s Perspective,” American Historical Association, New York City, January 2015.
- Invited lecture, “Confronting School Segregation in 1960s Chicago,” Loyola University, Chicago,

- April 2014.
- Invited lecture, "School and Housing Segregation in Chicago after WWII," St. Xavier University, Chicago, April 2014.
- "The Problem of De Facto Segregation in 1960s Chicago," History of Education Society meeting, Nashville, November 2013.
- "Putting the State Back into Education: Policy History and the History of Education," History of Education Society meeting, Nashville, November 2013.
- Invited lecture, "School Desegregation in the Urban North," Julliard, New York, October 2013.
- Invited discussant, Educating Harlem Conference, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York, October 2013.
- "Confronting School Segregation in Metropolitan Chicago in the 1960s," Law and Society Association, Boston, May 2013.
- "Educational Opportunity in Postwar Metropolitan Chicago," American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, April 2013.
- "Measurement in Education," History and Philosophy Conference, New York University, New York, November 2012.
- Panelist, "*Crucible of Consent: A Roundtable*," Policy History Conference, Raleigh, June 2012.
- "State Social Regulation, Child Welfare, and the Compulsory School, 1890-1940," American Historical Association, Chicago, January 2012.
- "State Social Regulation of Children through Schooling, 1890-1940," Social Science History Association, Boston, November 2011.
- Discussant, "Girls' Schooling: Traversing Gendered Limits," History of Education Society, Chicago, November 2011.
- "School, Society, and State: A New Education to Govern Modern America, 1890-1940," National Academy of Education, Washington D.C., October 2011.
- "The Science and Art of Citizenship: School Civics, 1890-1940," American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, April 2011.
- Invited seminar, "School, Society, and State," Amherst College, March 2011.
- "Education and the Welfare State: A Roundtable," History of Education Society, Philadelphia, October 2009.
- Chair and organizer, "Rethinking Common School Reform 25+ Years After *Pillars of the Republic*" History of Education Society, Philadelphia, October 2009.
- "Education, Work, and the Dilemmas of the New Education in the United States, 1890-1940," Work! Work! Work!: Work and the History of Education, Joint meeting of Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society and History of Education Society (UK), Sydney, Australia, December 2008.
- Discussant, "Cultural, Social, and Political Contexts of Curriculum and Pedagogy," History of Education Society, St. Petersburg, FL, November 2008.
- Invited seminar, "School, Society, and State in Early Twentieth Century America," Steinhardt School of Education, New York University, New York City, October 2008.
- "National School Reform, Federalism, and American State-Building, 1890-1940," Policy History Conference, St. Louis, May 2008.
- "The State and the Rural School Problem," Politics, Activism, and the History of America's Public Schools Conference, University of Pennsylvania, April 2008.
- "Creating Modern Citizens and Workers: The Struggle to Define the Curriculum of the 'New Education,'" Cornell University Institute for the Social Sciences, February 2008.
- "Compulsory Attendance and the Dilemmas of State Authority," Social Science History Association, Chicago, November 2007.

- “State Authority and the Local School: Compulsory Attendance Laws and Enforcement, 1890-1940,” History of Education Society, Cleveland, October 2007.
- Discussant, “Urban School Systems and Their Purposes,” Clio at the Table: A Conference on the Uses of History to Inform and Improve Policy, Brown University, Providence, June 2007.
- “Solving the ‘Rural School Problem’: School Consolidation, State Regulation, and the Reorganization of Local School Governance, 1890-1930,” History of Education Society, Baltimore, October 2005.
- Discussant, “Politics and Partnerships: Voluntary Associations in America’s Political Past” at Social Science Research Council’s Program on Philanthropy and the Non-Profit Sector Conference, Florence, Italy, March 2005.
- “The American Family, the State, and the Rise of Compulsory Attendance Laws, 1890-1940” American Society for Legal History, Austin, Texas, October 2004.
- “State Policing of Local Schools: Compulsory Attendance, State-Level Regulation, and the Modern Origins of National Education Policy,” Policy History Conference, St. Louis, May 2004.
- “A View from the States,” Miller Center for Public Affairs Fellows Conference, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, May 2004.

Select Service

Department Service

- Co-chair, Executive Advisory Committee, Education Department, 2023-present.
- Member, Graduate Committee, Education Department, 2022-present; chair of committee 2019-2021.
- Member Undergraduate Committee, Education Department, 2019-2021, 2022-present.
- Chair, Search Committee for Director of Teacher Education, Education Department, 2022-2023.
- Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Department Bylaws, Education Dept, 2022-2023.
- Chair, Education Department DIAP Committee, 2020-2021.
- Member, Faculty Advisor Board for Choices program, History Department, 2018-2021.
- Chair, Search Committee for Social Studies Lecturer, Education Department, 2019-2020.
- Chair, Education Department Review Committee, 2018-2019.
- Member, Search Committee for Director of Teacher Education, Education Department, 2019.
- Member, Search Committee for Professor of Practice in Urban Education, Education Department, 2019.
- Member, Education Department DIAP Committee, 2018-2019.
- Member, Graduate Committee, History Department, 2017-2018.
- Member, Working Group on the Future of the Education Studies Concentration, Education Department, fall 2017.
- Education Department Honors Adviser, 2012-2016.
- Curriculum Committee, Education Department, 2015-2016.
- Member, Education Department Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Committee, spring 2016.
- Faculty liaison, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Education Dept., 2013-2016.
- Co-Chair, Human Development Search, Education Department, 2015-2016.

Chair, Search Committee for International and Comparative Education Cogut Post-doctoral Fellow, Education Department, 2014-2015.
Co-organizer, "New Directions in Education" lecture series, Education Department, 2014-2015.
Member, Honors Committee, Education Department, 2012-2013.
Member, Search Committee, Education Alliance Executive Director, summer 2012
Member, Education Alliance-Department of Education Transitional Oversight Committee, 2011-2012.
Member, Ad hoc Committee on Department Standards, Education Department, 2010-2011.
Member, Ad hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluations, History Department, 2009.
Member, Admissions Committee for History/Social Studies MAT program, 2009.
Member, ad hoc Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Education Department, 2008-2009.
Member, ad hoc committee on Department Methods Course, Education Department, 2007-2008.

University Service:

Member, Faculty Hearing Committee for Allegations of Gender Based Discrimination, 2022- present.
Member, Public Education Committee, 2020-2021, 2022-present.
Mentor for Junior Faculty (through DOF), 2015-17, 2019-present.
Member, University Nominations Committee, 2018-2021.
Member, Community Engagement Working Group, 2019-2020.
Member, Brown Education Working Group, 2018-2019.
Member, Taubman Center Program Committee, 2017-2019.
Member, College Curriculum Council, 2008-2009, 2017-2018.
Member, UTRA Selection Committee, 210-2012

Professional service:

Co-editor (with Jonathan Zimmerman), *Histories of American Education Series* at Cornell University Press, 2019-present.
Member, History of Education Society dissertation prize committee, 2024-present.
Member, History of Education Society planning committee, 2024-present.
Member, History of Education Society Outstanding Book Prize committee, 2023.
Member, Program Committee, History of Education Society for the annual meeting in 2024-2025 (Providence), 2021-2022 (Baltimore), and 2024-25 (St. Louis).
Organized conference graduate student mentoring program, 2021-22.
Reviewer, National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowships, 2014-2024.
Member, American Historical Association Committee on Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award and Beveridge Family Teaching Prize, 2017-2019; chaired committee in 2019.
Member, American Society for Legal History Cromwell Prize committee, 2018-2020.
Member, Editorial Board, *History of Education Quarterly*, 2015-2018.
Member, Selection Committee for Barnard Prize/Best Article Prize, 2015-2016; chaired in 2017.
Mentor, National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowship Conference, spring 2015, spring 2018, fall 2018, 2023-24.
Member and Co-author of White Paper, Measuring College Learning project in History,

Social Science Research Council, 2013-2015.
Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *U.S. Education Law and Policy: A Documentary History*, edited by Charles J. Russo, SAGE Reference, 2012.
Reviewer, proposals for the History of Education Society annual meeting, 2009, 2011-13, 2015-18.
National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, 2010-2014.
Research on history teacher training and standards in Rhode Island, National History Education Clearinghouse project (with National History Center), 2009-2010.
National History Center Working Group on the History Major and Undergraduate Liberal Education, 2006-2008.
Wrote briefings for “Reforming History Education: New Research on Teaching and Learning,” National History Center Conference, Washington D.C., June 2007.
Ad hoc reviewer for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Chicago Press, Cornell University Press, Teachers College Press, *History of Education Quarterly*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Policy History*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Studies in American Political Development*, *Journal of Rhode Island History*, *Law and History Review*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, *Michigan Historical Review*, Information Age Publishing, and Sage Publishing, 2008-present..
Ad hoc mentoring for graduate students, postdocs, and junior faculty arranged through organizations: History of Education Society, Society for the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, Spencer Foundation/National Academy of Education, Jefferson Scholars Foundation.

Updated February 2024